

Abstract

5 A data storage system for storing data for a host processor includes
physical data storage devices each having data storage attributes and an outboard
storage manager. The outboard storage manager is operable with the physical data
storage devices for presenting to the host processor a virtual data storage image
having a desired data storage attribute for a particular data storage application by
organizing the physical data storage devices in an arrangement suitable for
providing the desired data storage attribute irrespective of the data storage
attributes of the physical data storage devices such that the combined physical data
10 storage device arrangement emulates the virtual data storage image. The outboard
storage manager is operable to transfer data between the host processor and the
organized physical data storage device arrangement via the virtual data storage
image.